

like that between England and Scotland or between England and Ireland was one possible alternative ; the other possible alternative was complete independence : there was no intermediate solution. Probably, like most Whigs, he looked forward to the peaceful parting of Great Britain and her colonies when the colonies were strong enough to shift for themselves. Thinking thus, It is less surprising that he paid so little attention to the history of the American colonies of England during the seventeenth century.

There are indeed passing references to them. The forfeiture of the Massachusetts charter is mentioned in order to illustrate the attachment of Halifax to representative government,¹ and the system of contract labour, **on** as it is often termed, the * white slavery ^J of Virginia, is noted in order to show the causes of Bristol's commercial prosperity.²

A paragraph is devoted to the earthquake in Jamaica, in 1692, which completely destroyed Port Royal, but it is mentioned merely as an example of the calamities which increased the public ill humour * and made William's government unpopular.³ The story of Captain Kidd leads Macaulay to explain that New York and the New England colonies connived at piracy* but it is told for the sake of its effect on the fate of an English ministry, not as an episode in colonial history.⁴ On the other hand nearly

thirty pages
are devoted to an account of the attempt of
the Scots to
found a colony at Darien.⁵ In that connection
we hear
that the governors of the West Indian colonies
prohibited
communication with the Darien colony⁶ and
that the sur-
viving settlers made their way to New
York.⁷ But the

*I, 262 (ii).

³V, 2250 (xix).

^sVI, 2907-34 (xxiv).

²¹*324 (iii).

*VI, 2945-8 (xxv).

*VI, 2927.